

REMARKS

Request to Publish Amended Claims

Per the USPTO Notice dated March 16, 2004, from Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin, patent application publications may now include amendments and the provisions in 37 CFR 1.215(a) are waived to the extent that they are inconsistent with this change in practice. Applicant hereby requests that the current amendments to the claims publish in the patent application publication.

Claim Status

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

Claim Amendments

Claim 4 has been amended so that it depends from claims 1 or 2. The amendment includes no new matter. Written support for the amendment is found in original claim 4.

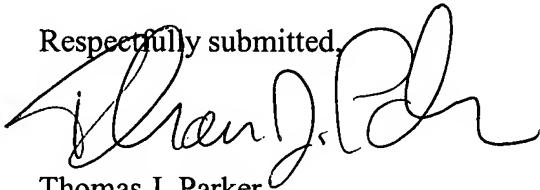
Claim 10 has been amended so that it depends from claims 6, 7 or 8. The amendment introduces no new matter. Written support for the amendment is found in original claim 10.

Specification Amendments

Page 1 of the specification has been amended to recite that the present application is the U.S. national application of International Application PCT/JP2004/001776, filed February 18, 2004, which claims foreign priority benefits from Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-044201, filed February 21, 2003. The amendment to the specification constitutes no new matter.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

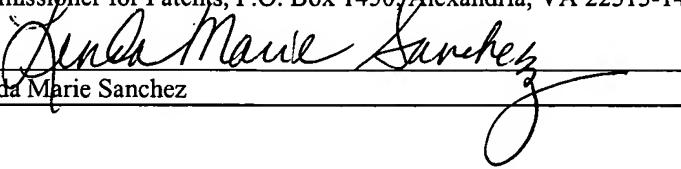


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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Linda Marie Sanchez